



WCPC December 2020 End of Year Newsletter

December 25th is almost here! Are you ready? Because of the shelter in place, we are seeing many many more Christmas decorations. Everyone is home, so why not decorate. It is great driving around different neighborhoods and taking it all in. Have you got your list of the Best Christmas Lights?? Grab some family or "bubble" friends and get in the car with some hot cider and have some fun!!

Singles Anyone?

Both Rudgear Park and Willow Pass Park now have orders for singles only play. Willow Pass was closed for two days after players broke the rules there recently. The Health Order stated that would happen if folks were playing doubles and not distancing and using masks.

Rudgear Park has been good. Busy with lots of types of singles play, including, skinny singles, cross court, skinny singles where the server is the one to move, so sometimes you are serving straight ahead and not cross court as we usually do. Players are playing regular singles also. Many of our tournament players are drilling with a partner.

There is also Pop In Skinny Singles. You can have two other players stand at each net post. When a player makes an error, one of the other players, pops in and plays the next point. It is a great way to include more players. You just keep track of your own score. And it is easier if you don't really like singles, because you get a few minutes break if you miss a shot and go out.

We are hoping, by early Spring, that we can get back to some doubles play at some point, but the County is calling the shots or that Grinch....COVID!

Welcome New Members

Please welcome Dave Fuson, Jack and Ted and Mark Johnson, (Mark and his two sons), Deidre Lingenfelter, John Mogyorodi, a past member, and Dr. Mark Rubenstein.

It will be a lot easier in the future, to recognize players, when we are not all standing outside the courts with our masks on. I am sure, everyone is looking forward to better days.

Christmas Donation by Rusty Lent

The Club received another nice donation from Rusty Lent, \$100.00. He has been helping keep play at Rudgear moving along with singles play and showing players the many ways to play singles pickleball. Or he shows them how to use the Backboard he built to hit against.

He said he can't wait to have to players healthy, the virus controlled, so the club can have a big, no a HUGE party with lots of food and lots of libations!!

Thanks so much Rusty! You are the best! Always a smile and a story for all of us! We can't wait for the next club party too. We know you are working out in that home gym.

Rusty is an IPTPA Certified Teaching Pro for Pickleball

End of the Year Donation by Miriam Garfinkel

Many thanks Miriam, for your generous \$50.00 donation. We would like nothing more than getting back to our "drop in play" every morning, with buckets of balls put out on the courts for our members to use. We can certainly use the donation for fun future play!! Miriam is a PPR Certified Teaching Pro. She lives over in the Oakland area and comes to Rudgear frequently, even riding her bike over!! Wow!

Other Member Donations

Many members decided to send their dues in anyway for 2021. This is a donation to our club, because the Board decided to give all current members a free year of membership for 2021. Many thanks to all of you that are our long time supporters and new members!

Non Board Members Retiring

We are saying good bye to Steve Bagot, our Venue Manager, Tosh Kuritsubo and Ed Oncena our Venue Maintenance help. All these men have put there time in, blowing off the courts regularly, changing the wind screens when needed, repairing gates or adjusting gates to close properly, etc.

They will still be on the courts playing, just not working. And when the time comes, someday, we hope Steve will be bringing those chocolate chunk shortbread cookies back to share! He is quite a good baker!

And Ed and his son, did such a great job putting the wind screens back in place! Real pros! Always offering to help!

Tosh has every tool known to mankind and knows how to use them all! He has been our Mr. Fix Everything for years!

Many Many Thanks from the WCPC Board of Directors and the Members!!

Board Member Retiring

Eric Tate is stepping down as our Tournament Director. We had a tournament planned in the Spring, until Covid hit. We have not been able to hold any other activities, including, managing the Morning Drop In Play.

Eric and his wife Liz Tate and their son Jordan, who is now an engineer volunteered their time at the Rudgear Courts over many years. The Evening Play for our members was managed by the Tate's over many summers. They brought, at their own expense, their snow cone machine. It was one of those hot, hot summer afternoons, and everyone enjoyed the cool ice! Their son Jordan, acted as a bartender for several of our Christmas parties at Bob and Joyce Jensen's lovely home. He also repaired bar stools after the party! Quite a kid! Great family!

Eric is still working two jobs, so his time to volunteer for our club comes to an end. We will miss all your expertise and thoughtful comments!

Being Repaired or Coming Back Soon

Carol Gallagher had meniscus surgery last month and hope she is recuperating. Not much keeps her down and out!

Miriam Garfinkel had a similar surgery and she was back on the courts in less than two weeks! That is a big wow!!

I haven't seen Stacy Spell in a while and heard she was dealing with an issue and hoping to be back on the courts soon, unless she and Thom Macpherson are hanging out on some beach!

Hoping to hear from the Hildebrand's, Dick and Lynn that Dick is continuing to improve after surgery. I am sure we will see him playing again soon! They should be back in Walnut Creek for the holidays. We've missed you both!

Tournament News

Mitch Goldblatt and Lisa Klein won the Gold in a 3.5, 50+ tournament in Palm Desert at Mission Hills. (March Madness tournament that had been delayed.) Way to go you two!!

Newport Beach held a large, over 1000 players, tournament, Dec. 5th. Carmen Sanz and her partner won Gold in the 5.0, 35+ bracket! Wow Carmen! Good Win!

Carolyn Wei and her partner won Gold in the Mixed, Skill and Age, 4.5, 50+. Another great win by our members!

Pickleball Ratings

Do you ever wonder, "How good am I?" Many players have this same question. If you are interested in what your rating might be compared to others that play, we have the information for you. Are you a 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 or a 4.0? This is information you get once you play some tournaments, or a sanctioned tournament. We have written information that list the skills you should have at each level. There are not many tournaments being played yet. Hopefully, some of the local tournaments will come back after COVID is reined in.

If you would like the information, just contact Kris Hunter at shywyo@aol.com and she can get it to you.

Balls for Sale

Laurie Savage and Kris Hunter sold lots of our stored balls and still have a few more for sale. Franklin Neon for \$20 a dozen if you need any. Contact either one of us a head of time and we can meet you at the courts. No Dura's left.

laurithia@gmail.com or Shywyo@aol.com.

Tip on balls.....put them in your pocket and warm them up before play on these cold winter mornings. Maybe they won't crack so easily!

Big News This Week

Rules Changes by the USA Pickleball Association, were announced this past week and will go into affect next year. There has been a lot of discussion on social media, ambassador forums, and pickleball forums on Facebook, etc. There are new videos of players showing how the Drop Serve could change the game making it more difficult to return the serve.

Significant Rule Changes for 2021 - A short version

1. Service lets are discontinued. In other words if the ball hits the net on the serve, and lands in the correct diagonal service court box, the ball is "live" and should be returned by the receiver. The server does not serve the ball again as the serve is a legal serve.
2. A new service method, the drop serve, which allows a bounce, is available for all players to use. It is not required, just an alternate serving method if preferred. The server must drop the ball from the hand or the paddle face, with no added force, and hit the ball after the ball bounces. The server must not add any force to the ball drop, nor may they toss the ball upward.
3. The entire score must be called before the ball is hit to make the serve.
4. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, players are expected to call faults on themselves.
5. To be absolutely certain when calling a ball "out," players must clearly see a space between the line and the ball when it lands on the playing surface.

2021 Rulebook and the Alternate 2021 Rulebook are listed below with links.

Rulebooks ----- The announcement came out this week about the changes to the Rulebook – 2021 Version <https://usapickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Rulebook-Indexed-FINAL-12-17-20.pdf>

as well as an Alternate Rulebook. <https://usapickleball.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Alternate-Rulebook-12-16-20-FINAL.pdf>

This Alternate Rulebook is designed to be used for “other than tournament” play and the Rules Committee is seeking comment over the one-year period. Designed to simplify the rules for recreational play, I recommend giving a spin with a group of your regular players to see how they shake out. Are they easier for newer players to understand, do they impact our long time non-tournament players in a positive manner? Please be sure to direct your comments and concerns to alternaterulebook@usapickleball.org

This information came from my playing group back in the Wyoming, from the Great Plains Regional Director. It makes for some interesting reading. As a club we can take comments and respond to the USA Pickleball Association as a group.

As an Ambassador, we can forward comments to other Ambassadors in our Forums. I believe our members are the first to be informed of these two rule books.

Year End Review on Pickleball in the Bay Area

Ocean View Tennis Courts in Albany - The PROS Commission approved conversion of one tennis court to 4 permanent pickleball courts. The City Counsel decided to wait until Spring of 2021 when the courts could be incorporated into an updated Master Plan. Decisions on the location will be decided then, hopefully.

Castro Park Tennis Courts in El Cerrito - The courts were lined for 6 pickleball courts but the tennis players pushed back and lines were repainted black and are very hard to see. They have a lockbox to provide nets that will be available, once again, when we get a handle on COVID. Now the City would like the pickleball players to raise \$1500 to repaint the lines. If you live near by you could help donate to this cause!

Bushrod Tennis Courts in Oakland - Darlene Vendenga is providing Introductory Pickleball Sessions. You can reach her at pickleballdar@gmail.com.

Cedar Rose Pickleball Courts in Berkeley - You may have seen an article in our local, Contra Costa Times about these pickleball courts. Many neighbors, that live very close to these courts, 86 of them signed a petition asking the city to convert the courts back to tennis. With residents home all the time, sheltering from the virus, many noticed more noise. Thirty Berkeley residents wrote the City, asking to keep the courts open. If you haven't done so and are a resident of Berkeley, please send a letter supporting pickleball to council@cityofberkeley.info Please let Cathy Taruskin at abcpickleball@gmail.com, know if you do so, as she is tracking those trying to keep pickleball going in Berkeley!

Please use Green paddles and quieter balls if possible. The City is installing noise-mitigation covers on the fencing to reduce the sound.

Many thanks, Cathy Taruskin, for all the information you send out, to keep us in the loop!

Rossmoor Pickleball Club Information

Linda Bower let us know that on December 3rd, the Golden Rain Foundation, decided to keep pickleball courts at Creekside, adding three more so there would be six courts in the existing area. They put \$300 K in the budget for pickleball, in the 2021. Good News for all those members!!

And there is a possibility of adding more courts in the future because there is room.

Rossmoor's large club, has over 503 Members, they need all the courts they can get!

Frank Reynolds did a great presentation and helped get this all accomplished! Great job Frank!

Public Comments to PROS Commission

It has been sometime since the Parks, Recreation and Outdoor Space Commission has had any meeting. They held one on December 7th. Kevin Hennessey did the drawing overlay of the three upper tennis

courts. As Liaison to the City for our club, I wrote out the following, which was read into the minutes of the meeting. It is our first step toward more courts in Walnut Creek:

12/7/2020

To All PROS Commissioners:

Happy Hang in there Holidays from the Walnut Creek Pickleball Club.

I am Kris Hunter, past President and current City Liaison for the club, with an update.

Even in Covid times, our membership continues to grow. We held no events, but folks want and need something fun and safe, and they are finding Pickleball at all our clubs and venues. Outside, playing over six feet apart, waiting with masks in our own distanced chairs, has provided hours of fun for everyone.

Not a single case of the virus in any of the players. When singles was ordered, the club stopped managing drop in mornings because of the difficulty policing the courts. Later, all afternoon and evening until dusk, the courts are full of families and folks playing, singles or doubles. Concord still allows doubles and still no issues with the virus.

Families were having harder times later as some refused to leave after playing for awhile, while many waited to play.

We asked for new signs again, but what is posted will not remedy the problem. Club members always help the general public when they are at the park.

In July, Art Oller came to Rudgear and we walked the upper 3 tennis courts, asking about expanding to more Pickleball courts. There could be 10 courts with more space between for safety. Best of all there are 42 parking spaces and restrooms.

We agreed that these tennis courts are under used everyday. We also know the City of WC paid \$160K for access to 4 of 12 brand new Northgate HS tennis courts that could be used for any league play, overflow from Heather Farms. They were used years ago and could be again.

In August, I started getting messages of complaints about parking issues around the courts, in front of homes, to close to driveways and trash cans. Folks said they were calling Arts and Rec. with the

complaints also. I spoke to all I could telling them, we tell members to park on the park side to be courteous to the neighbors. But so many coming to play all day long are not members and don't get our newsletters. Some on Nextdoor suggested the city should move the Pickleball courts to the tennis location in the park. The parking would be in a better location. Any noise would be further from homes.

Our club would fully support this idea. If the city could support repairing these courts, that are 25 years old, the club would help fundraise again, as we have before to help expand Pickleball in WC, which is highly successful already. It would be a win win for my neighborhood and the sport of Pickleball.

We would love to hear any input from the PROS, about this possibility.

The photo above shows the 10 courts on an overlay of the 3 tennis courts at a Rudgear Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Hunter

WCPC

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